

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
THE POETRY FOUNDATION
AND
THE DELAWARE DIVISION OF THE ARTS
Present



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Recitation and performance are major new trends in poetry. There has been a recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of hip-hop music. *Poetry Out Loud* builds on this momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class. The National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation have partnered with State Arts Agencies throughout the country to support the expansion of *Poetry Out Loud*, which encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This exciting new program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

After successful pilot programs in Washington, DC, and Chicago, the second phase of *Poetry Out Loud* was launched in high schools across America in the spring of 2006 with tens of thousands of students participating. Since its inception in 2006, Delaware state winners have been:

Simone Seal	Padua Academy	2006
Daniel Foster	Delmar High School	2007
Tonisha Jones	Middletown High School	2008
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Alex Cummisky	Middletown High School	2010
Hannah Glavin	Wilmington Christian School	2011
Elizabeth Landon	Wilmington Christian School	2012
Jordan McMillan	Sanford School	2013
Kathleen Becker	Red Lion Academy	2014
Hannah Sturgis	Polytech High School	2015
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Cecilia Ergueta	Wilmington Friends School	2017
Samuel McGarvey	Tall Oaks Classical School	2018

CONTEST STRUCTURE AND AWARDS

Now in its fourteenth year, *Poetry Out Loud* continues to use a pyramid structure that begins at the classroom level. Students compete within the classroom, then move to a school-wide competition, then to the state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals, where a student winner representing each of the 50 states, Washington, District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico convene to compete for the national title. Participating teachers in the Poetry Out Loud program are provided with all necessary curriculum materials to implement the program.

Each winner at the state level receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete for the national championship. The state winner's school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. A runner-up in each state receives \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. Additionally, a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends are awarded to the winners at the National Finals. At the National Finals in Washington, D.C., all state winners compete in three semi-final rounds. From those semi-final rounds, nine finalists are selected. Six of the finalists receive \$1,000 scholarships, the second runner-up receives \$5,000, the first runner-up \$10,000 and the national winner receives a \$20,000 scholarship.